

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the outstanding final Office Action mailed April 21, 2005. Upon entry of the amendments in this response, claims 1 – 3, 6 – 8, 10 and 21 - 23 remain pending. In particular, Applicant has amended claims 1 and 6 and has canceled claims 5 and 20 without prejudice, waiver, or disclaimer. Applicant has canceled claims 5 and 20 merely to reduce the number of disputed issues and to facilitate early allowance and issuance of other claims in the present application. Applicant reserves the right to pursue the subject matter of these canceled claims in a continuing application, if Applicant so chooses, and does not intend to dedicate the canceled subject matter to the public. Reconsideration and allowance of the application and presently pending claims are respectfully requested.

Indication of Allowable Subject Matter

The Office Action indicates that claim 20 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims. As set forth above, Applicant has amended claim 1 to incorporate the limitations previously recited in claim 20. Therefore, Applicant respectfully asserts that claim 1 and its dependent claims 2, 3, 21 and 23 are in condition for allowance. Additionally, Applicant has amended claim 6 to incorporate limitations similar to those indicated in the Office Action as being allowable with respect to claim 20. Therefore, Applicant respectfully asserts that claim 6 and its dependent claims 7, 8, 10 and 22 are in condition for allowance.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

The Office Action indicates that claims 1 – 3, 5 - 8, 10 and 23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Carter* in view of *Vahalia*. The Office Action

further indicates that claims 21 and 22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Carter* in view of *Vahalia* as applied to claims 1 – 3, 5 – 8, 10 and 23 and further in view of *Hughes*. As set forth above, Applicant has canceled claim 5 and respectfully asserts that the rejection as to this claim has been rendered moot. With respect to the remaining claims, Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

In particular, Applicant has amended claim 1 to incorporate the limitations previously recited in claim 20, the allowability of which is set forth in the Office Action. Therefore, Applicant respectfully asserts that claim 1 and its dependent claims 2, 3, 21 and 23 are in condition for allowance. Additionally, Applicant has amended claim 6 to incorporate limitations similar to those indicated in the Office Action as being allowable with respect to claim 20. Therefore, Applicant respectfully asserts that claim 6 and its dependent claims 7, 8, 10 and 22 are in condition for allowance.

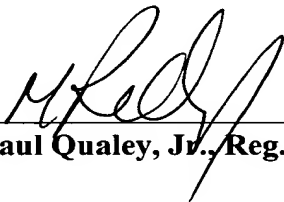
Cited Art Made of Record

The cited art made of record has been considered, but is not believed to affect the patentability of the presently pending claims.

CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing amendments and for at least the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully submits that all objections and/or rejections have been traversed, rendered moot, and/or accommodated, and that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application and all pending claims are hereby courteously requested. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (770) 933-9500.


Respectfully submitted,



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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on 6/16/05.



Signature